



Independence Day extravaganza



Members of the group, NG2 entertain the Fort Buchanan community during the base's 4th of July festivities, which included a wide array of local dishes, carnival rides, guest speakers and of course a fireworks display mainlander's would be sure to envy. Also performing at the event for the several thousand attendees were Millie Quezada, and the reggaeton duo Angel and Khriz.

Westpoint acceptance P. 7 Meet new commander P. 3 Reaching out to family P. 18





From the Commander:



Col. Edwin C. Domingo
Garrison Commander

It has been over three years since I became the Garrison Commander for Fort Buchanan. As a leader in the United States Army, I

have learned many lessons. Today, if you allow me, I would like to share with you my most important one. Many say that life is a journey, not a destination. I say life is a journey with many destinations. When you become a Soldier you embark in a different journey travelling the road of life. You pack your gear, your family and with them your hopes and dreams but most of all, your aim to serve your country.

Then you unpack at another place, another country, ready to serve, again - new place, new people, new challenges and new mission. Sometimes you are able to choose your destination. Other times, maybe the most, your destination chooses you. Either way, chosen or given, there are no chances. There is always a plan. That's how life's journey brought me back to Fort Buchanan and to the community

I knew. But now the circumstances were different. I never thought that the place where I started my AGR tour would be the installation I would serve as Garrison Commander. I was back again and like I said during my Change of Command in June 2007 "blessed once again to return once again to Fort Buchanan and Puerto Rico."

Today, I look back and reminisce about many things. I remember the tough times I encountered at the beginning of my journey. I was moved by the loss of very special people in the community - Bill Merriweather, Pablo Cotto, Ed Dzierzeski and most recently, Ms. Daisy Schnider. I still pray for them and for all our Soldiers whose families I presented my condolences as their beloved ones paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of freedom.

But the journey of life is ever changing. As we said goodbye to our friends we said hello to new family members. Our home, Fort Buchanan, became the gathering place where we greeted old family members like our Army components - the 1st Mission Support Command and the Puerto Rico National Guard - and old friends like our veterans and retirees and welcomed new friends like the Marine Reserve, Navy Reserve and federal agencies. As you look around, you'll see that Fort Buchanan is becoming purple, that is, joint.

During these three years we received the visit of many leaders such as the Honorable Luis Fortuño when he was Resident Commissioner and then as Governor of Puerto Rico; the actual Resident Commissioner, Honorable **See Farewell — Page 16**



CSM David Davis
Fort Buchanan
Command Sgt. Maj.

I am glad to be back taking care of Soldiers and civilians, and wearing the uniform. I missed Fort Buchanan during

CSM returns with message of reflection on Independence Day

my absence and want to thank everybody for your unwavering support and encouragement; it meant a lot to me and my family.

This past week Americans celebrated the birth of this magnificent country - all 234 years of her.

Most historians would agree that the founding of the United States of America began when the original Thirteen Colonies declared independence from Great Britain "Free and Independent States... absolved from all Allegiance to the British

Crown" and in 1776 at the age of 33, Thomas Jefferson laid the cornerstone of the United States of America by using the name in the Declaration of Independence.

Thus began the United States as a nation of strength unrivaled by any other country.

And nothing symbolizes her integrity and might like the majestic Old Glory - the very standard and icon by which we as thankful and proud citizens display our unconditional reverence and commitment.

The flag of the United States of America represents well over two centuries of untold sacrifice, bloodshed, tears and sorrow. It also exemplifies the tradition and heritage that come from noble, honorable triumphs and deeds of exalted accomplishment.

When combined, these experiences create and embody the moral fiber of our Republic today, just as it did 234 years ago.

The flag is the iconic representation that centers us as a people and is the very reason so many long to

become American citizens.

I once read an article on the meaning of the Fourth of July which said, in part, that for American democracy to be successful it depended on the degree to which each new generation - native-born and immigrant - make its own the moral truths on which the Founding Fathers staked the future of the Republic.

Their commitment to build a free society with liberty and justice for all must be constantly renewed if the United States is to fulfill the destiny to

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Dep. to Garrison Cdr.
Gunnar Pedersen

Deputy Commander
Lt. Col. Gerald Savage

Command Sergeant Major
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El Morro is an authorized publication printed in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Contents of El Morro are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army or U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan.

El Morro is published April monthly by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Garrison. Circulation 5,000. All editorial content of El Morro is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Public Affairs Office.

Deadline for submission is 4 p.m. Friday, one week prior to publication. Submissions must be in electronic (MS-Word) and hard copy formats and include all text, photographs and graphics intended to accompany the submission.

The Editor reserves right to edit all submissions and to determine the suitability for inclusion in El Morro.

Every effort will be made to publish submissions in a timely manner, however, time, layout, style and editorial considerations, as well as determinations made by the Commander or the Public Affairs Officer to determine if the submission is published.

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CG addresses need of sponsorship

I have moved many times in my career, within the United States and overseas. I have deployed several times, leaving my wife to pull double duty at home. I know the good, the bad and the ugly of moving firsthand from my Family's experience and the stories shared by other Soldiers, Civilians and Family members.

Every move brings new opportunities but also challenges and stress that can have a negative impact on work and home life.

I also know from personal experience that sponsors can be the determining factor between a good or bad move. An excellent sponsor plays a key role in making a positive first impression and helping the new person and Family integrate into the unit, workplace and community.

During the past several years the Army has been experiencing a high volume of transition due to Army Force Generation, modularity, Grow the Army, Base Realignment and Closure and troop mobilization. Now more than ever we need effective sponsorship to mitigate the stress of transition; however, Soldiers, Civilians and Families continue to express frustration with the Army's Sponsorship Program.

Sometimes our personnel and Family members have an exceptional sponsor - someone who truly makes them feel welcome and gets them off to an excellent start - but that is not always the case. There may be sponsors who are not well-equipped or motivated to provide the needed assistance or, even worse, no sponsorship at all. These experiences make sponsorship a pressing Army Family Action Plan issue. I am taking this opportunity to improve on our Total Army Sponsorship Program (TASP) to enhance the readiness of our Soldiers and Civilians, and deliver on our promise to take care of Families.

The Army's Sponsorship Program, as prescribed in AR 600-8-8, The Total Army Sponsorship Program,

requires every first-term Soldier have a sponsor. The sponsor acts as a big brother or sister and helps the Soldier learn Army standards and develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork.

After that initial assignment, TASP offers sponsors for every Soldier, Private through Colonel, and likewise for every Civilian in grades up to GS-15. A vital part of the Sponsorship Program that is often forgotten or overlooked is the rear detachment support provided to Family members of deployed Soldiers and Civilians. So we have in our regulations a Sponsorship Program that covers all members of our community. I want to make sure that what is outlined on paper is also happening in our communities. Soldiers, Civilians and Family members will have a sponsor to provide information and support before, during and after transitions, mobilizations and deployments.

We must make sure sponsors are well-equipped for their important role. Sponsors must understand their role and have the necessary information and resources to fulfill it. Even more so, sponsors must be willing to reach out and make human contact, especially with new Soldiers, first-time Civilian employees, and Family members who are unfamiliar with the Army way of life.

Above all, I want to ensure that commanders are invested in the success of the Sponsorship Program within their community. TASP is a commander's program. Its success is contingent upon the commander's involvement and support. It is leadership's responsibility to send the message that sponsorship is something important to do and to do it right. At the most basic level, that means having an adequate pool of sponsors to meet the needs of the community and supporting those sponsors with reasonable time and resources to do a good job.

I have asked CSM Neil Ciotola to lead a working group to review sponsorship from a holistic perspective

and to update the program to meet the needs of Soldiers in today's Army. Two important aspects of the Sponsorship Program under examination are integration and tracking. We must have a means to collect, transmit and follow up on their needs and issues.

We do not want Soldiers carrying unresolved issues from assignment to assignment. We do not want Families to fail to connect or to become disconnected from their community, especially if their Soldier is deployed. We are looking at the feasibility of using current systems to integrate and track TASP processes Army wide, among other possible improvements. I anticipate that new recommendations, guidance and requirements will be forthcoming as a result of our review.

We are approaching summer, the traditional moving season for the military. Most of us in an Army environment, Soldiers, Civilians and Family members alike, know what it is like to relocate. We know what a difference it makes to have a helping hand along the way.

Leaders, your direct experience alone, whether good or bad, should be enough incentive to make the Sponsorship Program in your sphere of influence as effective as possible.

With a successful sponsorship program, we can treat every one of these moves as an opportunity to show that we will do right by Soldiers, Civilians and Families. The time and effort invested up front will pay big dividends in the satisfaction, commitment, and increased cohesion and mission readiness of Army units.

All Soldiers, Civilians and Family members must be provided with quality programs and safe communities that meet their needs while enabling them to thrive and maintain resiliency. We will keep our promise.

Support and Defend.
Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, Defender 6

Incoming commander's biography: Change of command ceremony July 15

Colonel John D. Cushman assumes command of the United States Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan on 15 July 2010.

Colonel Cushman was born in Queens, New York. In 1987, he graduated from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri with a BA in Public Relations and subsequently was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Quartermaster Corps.

His professional military education Garrison Commander includes: Northern Warfare Course, Airborne School, Armor Officer Basic Course, Quartermasters Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Logistics Executive

Development Course, Sustaining Base Leadership Management Course, Garrison Pre-Command Course, Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

He holds both a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College and a Master's Degree in Administration from the Central Michigan University.

Colonel Cushman's past service has included assignments as Tank Platoon Leader, Support Platoon Leader and Battallion S4, 2-35 Armor, Fort Carson, CO; Operations Officer, HHC and Support Company Commander, 1st U.S. Support Battalion, El Gora, Egypt; Assistant Support Operations Officer,

HSC 127th Aviation Spt Bn, Hanau, Germany; Assistant CofS, G4, Chief Supply Branch, HHC, 1st Armored Div, Bad Kreuznach, Germany; Assistant CofS, G4 Chief Plans and Operations, HHC 1st Armored Div, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina; DCS-LOG Operations Officer and DCS-OPS Operations officer, 90th Regional Readiness Command, Little Rock, AR; Assistant Professor of Military Science, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI and Professor of Military Science, State University of New York-College of Brockport, Brockport, NY; and both Deputy Commander and Commander, USAG Camp Parks, Dublin CA.

Colonel Cushman's awards and

decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon w/num 2, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Service Ribbon, Multinational Force and Observers Medal w/3rd Arabic Number.

Colonel Cushman is married to Christina D. Cushman.



Fort Buchanan's 2010 Strategic Planning Conference

Fort Buchanan continues the journey of shaping its future; leaders, workforce, military personnel, family members, tenants and customers totally engaged last June in transforming into an Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) organization. What started in January 2010, with the Strategic Planning (SP) Facilitator's site visit, Dr. Patrecia Williams and LTC Garrett Heath, from the Office of the Under Secretary of the Army, Office of Business Transformation (OBT), followed by the SP training in February with the OBT consultants, Mr. Terry Peck and Mr. Joe Albright, led Fort Buchanan to its first Strategic Planning Conference.

The USAG Fort Buchanan 2010 Strategic Planning Conference was held 8-11 June in the Fort Buchanan Community Club. The guest speakers were MG William Gerety, Senior

Commander, COL Donato M. Dinello, Army Reserve Installation Division, Dr. Patrecia Williams, OBT Team and COL (R) William Zammit, representing 1st MSC. The installation speakers were COL Edwin Domingo, Garrison Commander, Mr. Pedersen, Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Ms. Grissel Rosa, Public Affairs Officer and Ms. Odette Ortiz, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office (PAIO). The leaders spoke about their commitment to LTG Lynch's IMCOM Campaign Plan (IMCP) and their expectations from the garrison, Business Transformation, Strategic Communications, and how the installation's execution of the IMCP will lead us to becoming an ACOE. LTC Gerald R. Savage Jr., USAG Fort Buchanan Deputy Garrison Commander also shared some remarks regarding the installation's mission and vision. The

Fort Buchanan community was well represented with approximately eighty participants in different positions and grade levels. In order to accomplish the deliverables, Mr. Joe Albright, OBT Facilitator provided refresher training on gap analysis, performance metrics and how to develop initiatives. The presentations concluded with the SP Reporting Process through the Strategic Management System (SMS) by Mr. Hank Scharpenberg, OBT. After the above presentations, the group was divided into six teams, representing each one of LTG Lynch's Lines of Effort (LOE). The teams back briefed the group on the gap analysis between the IMCP and the draft USAG Fort Buchanan 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, the performance metrics crosswalk between the IMCP and the Fort Buchanan metrics and on the

identification of strategic initiatives. Great job by the LOE teams! During the next few weeks, the teams will further refine the deliverables and continue the path to success by addressing LTG Lynch's three fundamental questions: Are we doing the right things? Are we doing things right? What are we missing?

Like always, "time flies when you are having fun". The conference came to an end but not the commitment, engagement and enthusiasm of the Fort Buchanan community. We are all aware that our future relies not on what was done during this week, but on what we do from now on. We recognize that although we still have a long way to go, embarking this journey TOGETHER, will make Fort Buchanan the most desired Overseas Military Community in which to live, work and play.

Bacardi hosts installation officer professional development event

Lt. Col. Gerald Savage
Deputy Garrison Commander

Ft Buchanan's second OPD event for the year took place on 21 June with some windy and rainy weather. However the wind was the perfect for the first stop on the private tour of the Bacardi plant in Catano on Monday.

The group of 7 officers from Ft Buchanan; which included officer's from the Ft Buchanan Garrison, the 402nd CA Battalion and National Guard Soldier's from the CBWTU; visited the Bacardi plant to have a personal tour that included greetings from Mr Felix Aguayo, the Corporate Retail Manager and a briefing from Mr Miguel Moreno, the Bacardi Environmental Coordinator. At first, there was some skepticism amongst Garrison personnel that a trip to Bacardi would have anything to offer on the professional level. However as the discussion on Environmental Initiatives got going, it was evident from the enthusiasm by Mr Moreno, and the officer's present, that this was going to be a true "question and answer" tour.

With a back drop of the two new "wind generating turbines" recently installed and operating at the Bacardi pavilion, Mr Moreno explained that during the first month of operation, the turbines were producing between 5-6% of the total energy demand for the plant. As this is the first month in operation, they are waiting, and are hopeful for continued and increased energy savings from the project.

In addition to the wind turbines, Mr Moreno explained that Bacardi has an aggressive recycling program and other "green initiatives" already in place. They range from capturing methane gas produced during part of the manufacturing process for use as a fuel, to the shredding of wooden pallets and old wooden barrels for mulch throughout the expanses of green space throughout the facility.

Mr Moreno stated that "if it can be re-used or recycled at Bacardi, it probably is". All in all, it was very evident that the Bacardi Corporation takes its environmental programs very seriously.

After meeting with the Bacardi Environmental Specialist, we were provided a "behind the wall" tour of the Bacardi production facility. Our Tour Guide, Benny, provided a thorough and detailed recount of the history of Bacardi, as the company grew and re-located during the 20th Century.

In addition to covering the normal stops on the tour, we were taken to the actual production facility and able to see the enormous scale of the operation that is capable of producing a million gallons of rum per day.

The logistics required, and executed on a daily basis to operate the Bacardi facility are astounding. From operating their own ships that move molasses throughout the Caribbean; to the ability to warehouse and track over 150 million barrels of rum at one time; they operate in such a way as to make a Logistician like myself proud.

Procurement, Shipping, Transportation and

Distribution; many of the key aspects of the Logistics field were present and available for us to observe on the tour.

The Fort Buchanan Installation Wide OPD program is open to Officer's from all tenant organizations on Ft Buchanan. Programs are scheduled on a bi-monthly basis and cover a wide range of topics that can be tied to military specific topics or other items of interest that can be linked to daily operations. For further information, please contact LTC Gerald Savage at x3440 or CW2 River at x5154.



Courtesy Photo

Chaplain's Corner



courtesy photo

A native of Southern California, Lt. Col. Paul Linzey graduated from Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, CA in 1978 with a major in biblical studies.

After Completing the Master of Divinity program at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA in 1989 he was commissioned by Direct Appointment in 1990.

He is ordained with the Assemblies of God. In 1992 he completed the Chaplain Officer Basic Course at Fort Monmouth, NJ and in December of that year began his first TPU assignment with the 143rd Evacuation Hospital of the California Army National Guard. In 1995 he transferred to the 4/160 Infantry Battalion (Mech), 40th Infantry Division, CA ARNG.

He completed the Chaplain Captain Career Course at Fort Jackson, SC in July 1999, and in September 1999 was assigned to the 540th Main Support Battalion of the 40th ID. Prior to, and while serving in, the CA ARNG he was the senior pastor of a civilian congregation in Southern California.

In 2001 CH Linzey was selected to become an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) chaplain in the Army Reserve. His first AGR assignment was with the 96th Regional Readiness Command in Salt Lake City, UT.

He completed the Command and General Staff Officers Course in 2004 at Fort Carson, CO and the Senior Unit Ministry Team Orientation at the 84th ARRTC, Fort McCoy, WI in May 2005. After completing the Advanced Force Management Course at the Army Force Management School at Fort Belvoir, VA in June 2005, he was assigned to the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) at Fort McPherson, GA where his primary duty was Chaplain Force Management during the Army Reserve Transformation.

He was also the chaplain POC for the USARC's Hurricane Katrina Task Force. In 2008 he went to Army Reserve Medical Command in Pinellas Park, FL, and

in early 2009 was named Chief of the Chaplain Recruiting Branch at USAREC, where he set records for all-time-high numbers of chaplain personnel recruited and accessioned. In June 2010 he became the installation chaplain at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

Linzey was the first Army Reserve chaplain to participate in the Chief of Chaplains' Building Organizational Trust workshop, the first to complete the Advanced Force Management Course, and the first to be a presenter at the annual Army Reserve Equal Opportunity Advisors Workshop. His Chaplain Force Management work in the Army Reserve Transformation earned him recognition from the Secretary of the Army, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of the Army Reserve, and the Chief of Chaplains. He has served on several accessions boards and committees for the Army Chief of Chaplains.

In addition, he has been an instructor for conferences, seminars, and training events for Army, business, and religious organizations. He has written several articles for religious and military publications, and was featured in a live interview on CNN and the Miami Herald. As a member of the Reserve Officers Association, Linzey has served as a chapter chaplain two different times. First, in the Orange County, CA chapter while in the CA ARNG, and second, in the Utah chapter while at the 96th Regional Readiness Command.

He has been involved in numerous community events, including the California Governor's Home Business Luncheon, Utah Commemoration of the National Prayer Breakfast, Local Clergy Associations, Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Mayor's Homeless Task Force, Memorial Day, July 4th and Veteran's Day Patriotic Ceremonies, Combined Federal Campaign Luncheon, Delta Airlines September 11 Commemoration, and other ceremonies.

In 2007 CH Linzey requested an Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment. He was assigned to the Multi National Corps – Iraq (MNC-I) Chaplains Office and sent to Camp Echo, MND-CS, near Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq, where he worked with several Military, Border, and Police Transition Teams, and established a post-wide religious program where there had been none. It was an awesome time of ministry and a positive, life-changing experience.

Among his awards are the Meritorious Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M-Device and Bronze Hourglass, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

In addition to his work with soldiers and their families, CH Linzey is certified to conduct civilian marriage seminars (Marriage Encounter and PREP) and parenting seminars (Active Parenting).

He and his wife, Linda, have three sons who are Army officers, three daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren.

Survivor Outreach Services available

Our Fallen Warriors have paid the ultimate sacrifice. The Army has a commitment to their Families. Families deserve our respect, gratitude and the very best we can provide.

The goal of the Survivor Outreach Services program is to deliver on that commitment by providing access to support, information and services at the closest location to where the Survivor resides and when and for as long as the survivor desires.

SOS offers support through:

Benefits Coordinators.

Benefits Coordinators provide expertise on local, state and Federal benefits. They also work with Casualty Assistance Officers, providing the Surviving Family with assistance to understand and apply for their benefits.

Financial Counselors

Financial Counselors provide assistance to Surviving Families through investment and estate planning education. Financial counselors work closely with Benefits Coordinators, Army Long Term Family Case Management, and legal assistance to address the needs of Surviving Families.

Support Coordinators

Support Coordinators function as the long term support personnel for Survivors. Support coordinators facilitate support groups, provide life skills education, and connect Survivors with counseling resources.

These Coordinators work closely with Benefits Coordinators, Casualty Assistance Officers, and Army Long Term Family Case Management to ensure Survivors receive their necessary services.

Visit:

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/FamilyProgramsandServices/SurvivingFamilies/SurvivorOutreachServices.aspx>



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Military pay raise of 1.9% likely in 2011

WASHINGTON -- Lawmakers are poised to give servicemembers an extra boost in pay next year despite objections from the Defense Department over the long-term cost of the raise.

On Wednesday, the House Armed Services personnel subcommittee announced plans for a 1.9 percent pay raise next January, 0.5 percent above the target set by Pentagon planners in January. Defense officials had asked for a 1.4 percent raise based on anticipated private sector raises for 2011.

But Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif., said the extra money is needed to help close the ongoing gap between civilian paychecks and military wages. Congress has approved higher-than-civilian pay increases each of the last 12 years.

Lawmakers have said repeatedly that the additional pay raise is also needed to reward servicemembers and their families for the sacrifices during nine years of war

and because of the strain placed on the force.

"I would challenge anyone to find a civilian job that has the same set of requirements and risks as those experienced by our military personnel," said Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C.

"For me, the assertion that personnel costs are crowding out the ability to fund other defense priorities should not be solved by asking military personnel to take less."

Even with the extra boost, a 1.9 percent pay raise in 2011 would be the lowest since the start of the all-volunteer military in 1973. In 1988, Congress approved a 2.0 percent raise for servicemembers. This year, troops received a 3.4 percent bump in their pay.

The Senate has not yet weighed in, but in recent years has sided with the House in granting an adding another 0.5 percent to troops paychecks. Last month, Sen.

Jim Webb, D-Va., head of the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel panel, promised a closer look at personnel costs but indicated he would still back a slightly higher than requested pay raise. Last weekend, Defense Secretary Robert Gates mentioned the higher pay raises during a speech on fiscal responsibility, noting that "given America's difficult economic circumstances and parlous fiscal condition, military spending on things large and small can and should expect closer, harsher scrutiny."

Defense officials estimate that an extra 0.5 percent increase will cost the department another \$350 million in fiscal 2011 alone, and \$3.5 billion over the next decade. Those figures don't include higher retirement pay, pushing the expense even higher.

In testimony before the Senate last month, RAND national security research division director James Hosek said new

research indicates that targeted specialty pays -- bonuses for medical professionals, for example -- would be less costly and more effective for keeping highly-skilled troops in the ranks.

William Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy, also argued that the pay gap between the military and private sector is overstated, especially once housing stipends and other military benefits are factored in.

If approved, the 1.4 percent pay raise would mean about \$32 more a month for an E-4 with six years in the service, and about \$41 for an E-5 with more than 10 years. A 1.9 percent pay raise would add another \$11 or \$14, respectively.

The full House committee is expected to vote on the pay raise next week. The Senate will offer its proposal next week, and the final compromise version of the measure is expected to be approved by October.

Fast Facts

The Selective Service System
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
National Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2425



BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS LINKED TO REGISTRATION

Registration is the law. A man who fails to register may, if prosecuted and convicted, face a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or a prison term of up to five years.

Even if not tried, a man who fails to register with Selective Service before turning age 26 may find that some doors are permanently closed.

See also [Men over the age of eligibility to register.](#)
See also [What Does Selective Service Provide for America.](#)

[Register Now!](#) - Register online.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Men, born after December 31, 1959, who aren't registered with Selective Service won't qualify for Federal student loans or grant programs. This includes Pell Grants, College Work Study, Guaranteed Student/Plus Loans, and National Direct Student Loans.

CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) makes registration with Selective Service a condition for U.S. citizenship if the man first arrived in the U.S. before his 26th birthday.

FEDERAL JOB TRAINING

The Workforce Investment Act (formerly called the Job Training Partnership Act - JTPA) offers programs that can train young men for jobs in auto mechanics and other skills. This program is only open to those men who register with Selective Service. This applies only to men born after December 31, 1959.

FEDERAL JOBS

A man must be registered to be eligible for jobs in the Executive Branch of the Federal government and the U.S. Postal Service. This applies only to men born after December 31, 1959.

Some states have added additional penalties for those who fail to register. See [State Legislation.](#)

Selective Service wants young men to register. It does not want them to be prosecuted or denied benefits. If a draft is ever needed, it must be as fair as possible, and that fairness depends on having as many eligible men as possible registered. In the event of a draft, for every man who fails to register, another man would be required to take his place in service to his country.

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E-mail: information@sss.gov
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July 15, 2009

Force Protection Thought of the Week

BE UNPREDICTABLE

- ◉ **CHANGE ROUTINES**
- ◉ **ALTER ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES**
- ◉ **DON'T EXERCISE AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE**
- ◉ **DON'T SHOP, REFUEL, EAT, ETC. AT THE SAME PLACE AND TIME**
- ◉ **VARY ROUTE TO AND FROM WORK**

THERE IS NEVER A TIME FOR COMPLACENCY

Westpoint candidate interview with: Charles Masters

1. Did you attend any military dependent's school? When? Where?

No. My father did not serve on active duty when I was going to school so I was not eligible to attend a military dependent's school. I went to school at Colegio San Jose in Rio Piedras.

2. What made you choose West Point?

What really attracted me to West Point was the physical, military and academic rigorous training that this Academy provides. Also, the fact that graduating from the most prestigious school in the nation and becoming a 2nd lieutenant in the Army is attractive all by itself.

3. Did you apply to other Military Academies? If so, Which? Why?

Yes I did. Besides West Point, I applied to the Air Force and Naval Academy. In addition to the academies, I applied to the AFROTC and AROTC programs and was offered full scholarships.

I applied to all these academies and programs in order to increase my possibilities and options for a military career.

4. Were you selected to other Military Academies?

Yes. I was also accepted to the Air Force Academy and the Naval Academy's Prep School.

5. What are your major accomplishments in high school?

In high school, I participated in several sports, clubs and leadership positions. My major accomplishments include awards such as first honors throughout the year, second honors throughout the year, representative of my class, president of the

Ecology Club and representative of the Forensics Club.

6. What do you attribute your acceptance at West Point?

I attribute my acceptance to the passion and will I had to get accepted into this prestigious academy. I also couldn't have done it without the help of my parents and people who supported me such as MG Felix A. Santoni.

7. What are your goals at West Point?

My goals at West Point are to increase my military knowledge, learn leadership skills and improve my physical and mental abilities. I also plan to excel in my academics, sports and clubs.

8. Who are your role models?

My role models include my dad Lt. Col. Charles J. Masters (Ret) who has supported and encouraged my military interests, Maj. Gen. Felix A. Santoni who has helped me throughout my journey and has been an inspiration for what I would like to accomplish after I graduate from West Point and finally, General Douglas MacArthur who has been the embodiment of those three hallowed words...Duty, Honor and Country.

9. What would you recommend to any high school student who wants to follow your footsteps?

My advice to any person who would want to follow in my footsteps is to follow your heart in what you really want. Do not plan to go to the academy for anybody else. Make sure that you are the one that wants to go to an Academy, not your parents or any other person.

In addition, the key to having the best chance of



Courtesy photos

acquiring an appointment to an academy is by starting early in your high school period. I started training and participating in leadership roles to go to West Point when I was in the 8th grade.

10. Mention your most significant academic and athletic achievements?

I participated in several sports such as swimming, track and field and volleyball during my four years in high school. My volleyball team won first place in the league and 2nd place in the COPA. I was also moved up ahead of my peers in junior varsity to varsity because of my abilities.

I have gotten letters in track and field and volleyball. I participated in the Junior National Olympics of Volleyball for three consecutive years in the United States winning 2nd and 3rd place. I have also received numerous awards such as the President's Education award, Scholarship award, Special Service award and so on.

11. What was the reaction of your parents, teachers and fellow students after being selected to attend West Point?

Their reaction was one of initial surprise followed by a great sense of pride in my selection. All were genuinely happy for me and expressed their congratulations, support and best wishes for success at West Point.

12. We know your father is a retired Air Force officer, were you ever stationed overseas? Where? Did you like it?

Although my father initially served on active duty in the Army, the remainder of his career was in the Puerto Rico Air National Guard which did not require my family or me to ever be stationed overseas.

13. Do you feel ready for a military life? Why?

I feel I have been preparing my entire life for this moment. Every position I have obtained, every award I have received and every sport I have played have all prepared me for what is to come...GO ARMY!



From left: Capt. Lina Cuevas, retired Maj. Gen. Felix A. Santoni, retired Lt. Col. Charles J. Masters, Charles Masters Jr., Sandra Masters and Lt. Col. José Olmos.



Puerto Rico issues birth certificate extension

Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 30, 2010) -- The government of Puerto Rico on Monday extended the validity of current birth certificates until Sept. 30, giving U.S. citizens born on the island more time to apply for and receive the new, security-enhanced certificates.

"Our goal with the three-month extension is to provide a smooth transition, especially to assist Puerto Ricans born [on] the island who currently reside stateside, as they apply for the new, more secure birth certificates," Nicole Guillemard, executive director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, said in a press release.

New birth certificates will begin being issued July 1 as planned, according to the PRFAA. After the Sept. 30 deadline, all previous birth certificates will be invalid.

The change in law came after law enforcement uncovered a criminal ring which had stolen thousands of Puerto Rican birth certificates from schools and were selling them on the black market for as much as \$10,000.

This is a concern for the Department of Homeland Security, as any person possessing a birth certificate from Puerto Rico can obtain U.S. passports, Social Security benefits and other federal services.

According to the U.S. State Department, as much as 40 percent of identity theft in America involves Puerto Rican birth certificates.

Soldiers and their families of Puerto Rican decent will be required to apply

for new birth certificates, but benefits enrolled for with old certificates will still be valid.

For example, after July 1, Defense Eligibility Enrollment System offices will only be accepting new birth certificates for initial family enrollment; however, those who originally used an old Puerto Rican birth certificate to enroll will not be dropped from DEERS.

Servicemembers not needing a new birth certificate for immediate official purposes are encouraged to delay in applying to avoid the initial rush of applicants, underscored Guillemard.

Puerto-Rican born citizens can apply for the new certificates, which will be issued through the Puerto Rico Health Department's Vital Statistics office, either via mail or online at <https://serviciosonlinea.gobierno.pr/SALUD/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fsalud%2f>.

The online application can be completed in English or Spanish, and applicants will be required to upload necessary identification documents, such as a copy of a driver's license or U.S. passport.

The \$5 issuance fee is waived for military veterans with a valid DD-214.

According to the Army's Human Resources Command, about 7,500 active-duty Soldiers are of Puerto Rican descent.

The Army Reserve has 44 units housed in 12 facilities and more than 4,000 personnel on the island while the Army National Guard reports more than 7,000 Soldiers living in Puerto Rico.

Fort Buchanan Exchange Value Goes 'Mobile'

Grace M. Fuentes
AAFES Public Affairs

Puerto Rico – Technology is a major component in everyone's lives and Fort Buchanan shoppers are no different.

The world has gone mobile and the Department of Defense's oldest and largest Exchange Service is following suit with the implementation of "Army and Air Force Exchange Service Mobile Marketing." The text messaging effort permits AAFES to reach Fort Buchanan shoppers through a medium that is accessible 24 hours a day.

In order to take advantage of this program, Soldiers can text "AAFES" to 95613 from their mobile phone to opt-in and receive exclusive offers such ten percent off online purchases and netbooks for \$139. "Mobile Marketing" promotions include offers from the PX, the MILITARY STAR® Card and Exchange Online Store. To redeem an offer, shoppers simply provide the 12-digit UPC to the cashier or enter the promo code online during checkout.

"Our commitment to go where

authorized exchange shoppers go is not limited to geographic location," said PX's General Manager Rick Mora. "'Mobile Marketing,' as well as the coupons we are now posting to Facebook, is just another example of our dedication to bring the exchange benefit to technologies military families continue to embrace and gain greater comfort with."

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is a joint command and is directed by a Board of Directors which is responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through the Service Chiefs of Staff.

AAFES has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and generating non-appropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs. To find out more about AAFES' history and mission or to view recent press releases please visit our Web site at <http://www.aafes.com/pa/default.asp>.

How to Speak Puerto Rican

By Joseph Deliz Hernandez, Esq.

"Está tó planchao"

Literal translation: Everything is ironed out.

Social meaning: It's the same as saying "No problem" or "No sweat." Everything has been taken care of. The plan is set. Everything is under control. Example: "No te preocupes, que todo está planchao." (Don't worry about a thing because everything is under control.)



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Puerto Rico

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Wounded warrior remembrance run

**Story and photos by Sgt. Jessica Rohr
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 3rd
Infantry Division Public Affairs Office**

In support of wounded warriors, Garrison Command, 166th Regional Support Group, out of Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, organized a 5K fun run and walk, and a competitive 10K run at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, May 30.

More than 600 individuals participated in the run to heighten awareness of wounded warriors. The 166th RSG handed out T-shirts and complimentary bags filled with information about wounded warrior programs after the race.

This event was intended to inform individuals that there are ways to support the military's wound warriors.

"They can volunteer their time," said Capt. Ivy J. Harris, the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 166th RSG. "They can volunteer their money - anything to show support for those that are wounded in combat."

The run reminded participants to remember not only their fallen comrades during Memorial Day weekend, but also the suffering and struggles wounded warriors have endured for freedom.

"This event brings awareness and really makes you think ... about what is going on and what people have sacrificed," said Steve M. Burton, a resident of Grand Ledge, Mich., a mail clerk for Kellogg, Brown and Root at COB Speicher.

The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2), the official Army program that aids severely wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers, Veterans and their Families by providing Army wounded warriors an advocate that will help both Soldiers and their Family Members with their careers, education, insurance, finance issues, retirement, transition and healthcare.

According to its Web site, the AW2 Program is



Servicemembers and civilians start running a 10K competitive race in support of Wounded Warriors organized by Garrison Command, 166th Regional Support Group, out of Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, May 30.

committed to ensuring that the unique population of AW2 Soldiers and their Families are given the best possible care and successfully return to duty or transition to civilian life.

Along with military programs, civilian, non-profit organizations contribute to wounded warriors and their Families.

One such program, Hope for the Warriors, makes an effort to ensure that the sacrifices of wounded warriors, their Families, and their needs are never forgotten. This is done by enhancing the quality of life for servicemembers and their Families that have been affected by combat injuries through the Immediate Need Program. The program allows servicemembers to seek financial help for unexpected expenses related to the servicemembers' injuries. Some of the immediate needs that are covered are transportation, rental cars, lodging assistance, child care, groceries, and gas.

Another program that helps enhance servicemembers' quality of life is Warrior's Wishes, which is provided by Hope for the Warriors. With the help of sponsors and donors servicemembers have been able to regain enjoyment and a purpose in life, according to testimonials on the Web site.

The knowledge that wishes can come true directly impacts the spirit of the warrior in addition to the Families and communities that support them, according to the Hope for the Warriors Web site.

The Wounded Warrior Project is another organization making an effort to help injured servicemembers.

Its mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors through provided programs. They also offer counseling about available benefits, which help

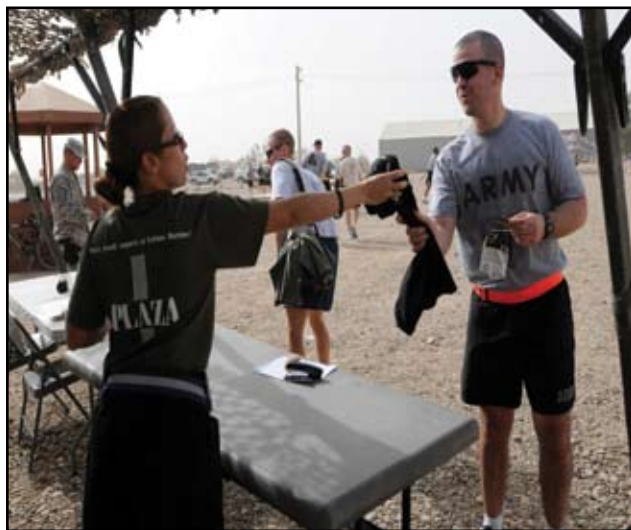
warriors navigate between government programs and civilian agencies.

More than 30,000 troops have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of them suffering traumatic brain injuries, amputations, and severe burns, according to the Wounded Warrior Project.

"Throughout history we have done our best to take care of our own," said Capt. Harris. "Although these are wounded warriors, they are fallen heroes - they are also our comrades. They are our brothers and sisters in arms. If we don't take care of them, who can we expect to take care of them? We feel like it is our responsibility, again because they are our brothers and sisters. These are people we have served with and they are also potentially going to be people we serve with now."



Capt. Ivy J. Harris, the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 166th RSG, out of Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, hands out gift certificates to the Wounded Warrior 10K competitive run winners at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, May 30.



Spc. Yesenia Pagan, Barceloneta, Puerto Rico, a help desk specialist for the life support office, 166th Regional Support Group, hands a wounded warrior T-shirt to Capt. Brian H. Root, Savannah, Ga., operations section assistant, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, after a 10K race held by Garrison Command, 166th RSG, out of Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, in support of wounded warriors, May 30.



Above: Two girls excitedly watch the fairground ride go through its rotations at Fort Buchanan's Independence Day celebration.



Above: Riders spin seemingly out of control at the fairgrounds during Fort Buchanan's Independence Day celebration.



Above: Luis Torres and his son Sebastian pose for a photo in front of the stage at Fort Buchanan's Independence Day celebration.



Above from left: Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Vicens The Adjutant General for the Puerto Rico National Guard, his wife Chloris, Rebecca Domingo with daughter Emily, Col. Edwin C. Domingo garrison commander with their son Eric, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Davis pose for a photo during the Independence Day fireworks display.



er 4th of July



Photos by Luis Delgadillo



Left: Rebeca Vazquez and her two children, Jean and Andrea, all of Bayamon, pose for a photo in front of the stage at Fort Buchanan's Independence Day celebration.



A young rider struggles to stay on board the bull as her audience nervously await her fate.



Above: Sgt. Eric Lanzo Sr., a military policeman with the 480th MP company,(left) catches a ball from Jesuel Figueroa (center) as his son Eric jr. looks on during Fort Buchanan's Independence Day celebration.



Servicemembers turn citizens on Fourth of July in Iraq

Army News Service

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq -- One hundred fifty-six servicemembers from 56 different countries recited the Oath of Citizenship in the rotunda of Al Faw Palace and marked the Fourth of July as the day they became American citizens.

This, the 17th naturalization ceremony held in Iraq for servicemembers who have been serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, was also the second Independence Day naturalization ceremony at Al Faw Palace attended by Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

"What a sight you are today. What a powerful symbol you represent to those who yearn for freedom all across the world," Biden said to the of the servicemembers who came from countries ranging from Bolivia to Thailand.

"On this Fourth of July weekend, I'm reminded that you have carried the torch of our founding fathers, the one that they lit 234 years ago. You carried it around the world," he said.

Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commanding general, United States Forces-Iraq, pointed out that the servicemembers taking part in the ceremony have already been serving their adopted country.

"I'm extremely grateful to have such an outstanding group joining the ranks of our citizenry," he said. "You came to our country seeking freedom. And before you even enjoyed the rights of full citizenship, you held up your right hand and swore to support and defend that freedom, both at home and abroad. You volunteered to go into harm's way in defense of your new nation."

Although many of those in attendance have been waiting for years to become citizens, they were able to take advantage of a streamlined process for foreign-born members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving during a period of recognized hostilities.

Pfc. Jean David Jeannite, a Soldier with 1st Brigade Combat Team's Special Troops Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, couldn't contain his enthusiasm about the day for which he had been waiting 22 years.

"Today was the greatest day of my life," Jeannite said with a grin. "I'm finally, officially, part of the U.S., the greatest country in the world. I'm loving it. It's unbelievable to be part of this. The vice president, wow! This is the highlight of my life!"

Jeannite, from Bradenton, Fla., came to the U.S. from Port au Prince, Haiti, when he was nine years old.

Many of the new citizens also took the opportunity to register to vote and apply for their new passports immediately following the ceremony.

Spc. Stephen Mashol, with Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, was preparing his passport application with the help of his first-line leader, Staff Sgt. Shawn Blackwell. Mashol immigrated to the U.S. as a refugee from the violence in Sudan in 2003 and was happy to have been a part of this ceremony.

"I was supposed to be in the last ceremony," Mashol said. "I wasn't happy for missing that ceremony, but now I'm more happy because this is a great day - the Fourth of July, and the vice president is here ... there is more happiness to this day, so that's making me proud to be American."



Lee Craker

Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, congratulate a Soldier after becoming an American citizen. During a naturalization ceremony July 4 in Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq, 156 servicemembers from 56 countries became U.S. citizens. Lori Scialabba, associate director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, administered the Oath of Citizenship. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, USF-I commander, gave each new citizen his USF-I commanding general's coin, and his senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, presented a U.S. flag to each servicemember.



Sgt. 1st Class Roger M. Dey

One hundred fifty-six foreign-born U.S. servicemembers from 56 countries serving with United States Forces-Iraq, take the oath of citizenship during a July 4 naturalization ceremony at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace. Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. spoke at the event, the 17th such ceremony held in Iraq since 2003.



Contest, coupons and community serve as cornerstone for exchange's 115th birthday

Grace M. Fuentes
AAFES Public Affairs

Puerto Rico – As the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) readies to mark 115 years of service and support to America's military, the Fort Buchanan Exchange's mission remains basically the same: Provide quality goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support MWR programs.

"AAFES' commitment to Soldiers is as strong as it's ever been," said General Manager Rick Mora. "Whether at Fort Buchanan or deployed, the Exchange is there for them."

In the spirit of exceptional service and support, the PX and Exchange Online Store are inviting authorized customers to "celebrate the savings" from Sunday, July 25 through Tuesday, July 27.

Shoppers who stop by the Exchange during the three-day period can register to win a \$5,000 Exchange shopping spree, a backpack or set of luggage.

In addition to the giveaways and sweepstakes, the PX will offer a variety of great deals centered on AAFES' 115th birthday. Shoppers using their MILITARY STAR® card, for example, will receive \$15 off any purchase of \$115 or more as well as

15 cents off per gallon of gas, up to 20 gallons. A variety of items will also be priced at \$1.15, \$15.50 and \$115 throughout the three-day celebration.

Additionally, several items at aafes.com, including a Bulova watch, diamond bangle bracelet, Voyager Bluetooth headset and Cuisinart Chef's 10-piece cookware set, will be offered for just \$115.

Since its establishment in 1895, AAFES has been involved in 14 major contingencies (to include the Spanish-American War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Balkans and Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom) and several dozen humanitarian and disaster relief contingencies.

AAFES is a joint command of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, and is directed by a Board of Directors who is responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through the Service Chiefs of Staff. AAFES has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and of generating non-appropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military MWR and Services programs.

To find out more about AAFES' history and mission or to view recent press releases please visit our Web site at <http://www.aafes.com/pa/default.asp>.



Firearm Safety

Children should not have access to firearms. A gun in the home is a danger to children. Parents should seriously weigh the risks of keeping a gun in the home.

Gun owners should always store firearms unloaded and locked up, out of reach of children. Ammunition should be stored locked in a separate location, also out of reach of children.

Safety devices such as gun locks, lock boxes or gun safes should be used for every gun kept in the home.

Parents should talk to children about the dangers of guns, teach children never to touch or play with guns, and teach them to tell an adult if they find a gun.

Parents should check with neighbors, friends or relatives – or adults in any other homes where children may visit – to ensure they follow safe storage practices if firearms are in their homes.

Independence, continued from page 2

which the Founders pledged their "lives... fortunes...and sacred honor." Independence Day is celebrated on July 4 because that is the day when the Continental Congress adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence.

In the days and months that followed, people celebrated whenever they heard the Declaration read in public.

In Philadelphia the following year, ships fired guns, bells rang out and candles and firecrackers were set off in Independence Day celebrations.

But, the War of Independence continued for another seven years until 1783 when Independence Day was made an official holiday. One hundred and fifty-eight years later Congress in 1941 declared the Fourth of July a federal holiday. So, as you enjoyed your picnics, barbecues, and celebrated America in all her glory, I am reassured knowing that you took a moment to reflect and teach your children of the selfless acts of those who made and continue to make this nation what it is today.

I encourage each of you reading this to continue to commit and renew your allegiance to America by saluting the flag of the United States of America paying tribute to her splendor.



CSM's Leader Development

All personnel (civilian and military) must adhere to the rules and regulations regarding safety while on Fort Buchanan, especially when it comes to Physical Training.

All runners/walkers are **required** to run or walk facing **oncoming** traffic (left side of the road). This is not an option. The runner/walker's back should never be to the traffic. This allows the runner/walker to maintain eye-to-eye contact with the vehicle operator and gives the runner/walker a chance to react should the vehicle come too close. Vehicle operators should not have to guess what a runner/walker is going to do. This rule ensures the safety of both the vehicle operator and the runner/walker.

Reflective belts are mandatory. Absolutely no headphones, IPODS, MP3s, etc., when running – this goes for everybody – military and civilians.

Bicyclists **must** wear helmets, reflective belts or vests, and obey all posted traffic signs just as a vehicle operator is required to do.

Please think safety in all that you do. And, as always, thanks for your continued support.





Fort Buchanan's Preparedness Corner

Are You Prepared for Emergencies or Disasters?

Hurricane Awareness:

Angel Vazquez

Installation Operations Center, Ops Specialist

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone, a low-pressure system that originates in the tropics. The cyclone usually includes intense thunderstorms and strong winds that can exceed 155 mph. Hurricanes and tropical storms can further result in tornadoes and heavy flooding. Power outage and flooding are secondary hazards that even those away from the direct path may Hurricanes can cause extensive damage through both strong winds and high flood waters from rain and storm surges.

How to Prepare for a Hurricane

○ Stay informed and know your hurricane terminology:

○ Tropical depression—A system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and sustained winds not exceeding 38 mph.

○ Tropical storm—A system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and sustained winds 39–73 mph.

○ Hurricane—A system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and sustained winds 74 mph or higher.

○ Storm surge—A dome of water pushed ashore by winds during tropical storms and hurricanes. Storm surges can reach 25 feet high and be 50–1000 miles wide.

○ Storm tide—A combination of storm surge with normal tide, increasing the amount of water (e.g., a 15-foot storm surge with a 2-foot normal tide creates a 17-foot storm tide).

○ Hurricane/tropical storm watch—Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are possible within 36 hours in specified areas. Stay tuned to radio or TV for further information.

○ Short-term watches and warnings—Provide detailed information about specific threats during hurricanes, such as flash flooding or tornadoes.

○ Understand the categorization of hurricanes:

○ Category 1—Winds 74–95 mph, storm surge 4–5 feet, minimal damage to plants and signs.

○ Category 2—Winds 96–110 mph, storm surge 6–8 feet, some flooding, minimal damage to mobile homes, roofs and small crafts.

○ Category 3—Winds 111–130 mph, storm surge 9–12 feet, extensive damage to small buildings and low-lying roofs.

○ Category 4—Winds 131–155 mph, storm surge 13–18 feet, extreme damage with destroyed roofs and mobile homes, downed trees, cut off roads and flooded homes.

○ Category 5—Winds exceeding 155 mph, storm surge over 18 feet, catastrophic damage destroying most buildings and vegetation, cutting off major roads and flooding homes.

• Install permanent storm shutters or have supplies available to board up your windows.

• Install straps or clips to secure your roof to the frame structure.

○ Make sure trees and bushes are well trimmed and maintained.

○ Keep enough fuel in your car's tank to evacuate. Expect a high volume of slow traffic.

○ Get an emergency supply kit, and develop a family evacuation procedure.

○ Develop a family communication procedure in case you are separated. Keep in mind phone lines and cell phone towers may be down.

What to Do If There Is a Hurricane

○ Listen to the radio or TV for more information and further instructions.

○ Secure your home by closing the storm shutters and bringing outdoor furniture inside.

○ Ensure a supply of water for household purposes.

○ Turn your refrigerator to the coldest setting and keep the door closed.

○ Turn off utilities if told to do so.

○ If you are told to evacuate:

○ NEVER ignore an evacuation order.

○ Follow the guidelines given regarding times and routes.

○ Take only essential items and your emergency kit.

○ Turn off gas, electricity and water if you have not already done so.

○ Disconnect all appliances.

○ Do not walk in moving water.

○ Do not drive in high water (as little as 6 inches can cause a stall or loss of control).

○ Follow the designated evacuation procedure and expect a high volume of traffic.

○ If you are NOT told to evacuate:

○ Stay tuned to emergency stations on radio or TV.

○ Listen for further instructions.

○ Stay away from windows and doors by seeking shelter in a bathroom or basement.

○ Prepare to evacuate to a shelter or a neighbor's home if your home is damaged.

○ Do not go outside until instructed to do so even if the storm is over and it seems calm. When the eye of the hurricane passes, it is calm for a while but does not remain that way.

○ Once you are in a safe place, report to your command if you are military or government civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

What to Do After a Hurricane

○ If directed report your status using the Army Disaster Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (ADPAAS) www.adpaas.army.mil.

○ Listen to news reports to make sure water supplies are not contaminated.

○ Avoid flood waters, standing or moving, as they may be contaminated or deeper than expected.

○ Beware of downed power lines.

○ Avoid any roads where flood waters have receded, as they may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.

○ Be extremely cautious when entering buildings and homes, as there may be unseen damage.

○ Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by flood water, as it can contain sewage and other contaminants.

Where to Find Additional Information

○ Ready Army—www.ready.army.mil

○ American Red Cross—www.redcross.org/static/file_cont207_lang0_94.pdf

○ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/

○ Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov)—www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/hurricanes.html

○ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm

Fort Buchanan Emergencies

Police Desk 787-707-3337

Fire Department/Ambulance 787-707-5911

Rodriguez Army Health Clinic 787-707-2587

Installation Operation Center 787-707-3287, 3249 or 3395 (Mon thru Fri)

On Post Emergency Services 787-707-4911

Civilian Emergencies

Emergencies 911

State Emergency Management Agency 787-724-0124

State Fire Department 787-343-2330 / 788-2330

State Emergency Medical Services 787-754-2550

State Police Department 787-343-2020 / 793-1234

News and Media

WKAQ TV Channel 2

WAPA TV Channel 4

WLII TV Channel 11

WUNO Radio 630 AM

WAPA Radio 680 AM

WOSO Radio 1030 AM

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen.



Fort Buchanan's Preparedness Corner

Are You Prepared for Emergencies or Disasters?



Dengue Fever alert:

Information collected from the Center for Disease Control Website

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is dengue?

A. Dengue (pronounced den' gee) is a disease caused by any one of four closely related dengue viruses (DENV 1, DENV 2, DENV 3, or DENV 4). The viruses are transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. In the Western Hemisphere, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is the most important transmitter or vector of dengue viruses, although a 2001 outbreak in Hawaii was transmitted by *Aedes albopictus*. It is estimated that there are over 100 million cases of dengue worldwide each year.

Q. What is dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF)?

A. DHF is a more severe form of dengue infection. It can be fatal if unrecognized and not properly treated in a timely manner. DHF is caused by infection with the same viruses that cause dengue fever. With good medical management, mortality due to DHF can be less than 1%.

Q. How are dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) spread?

A. Dengue is transmitted to people by the bite of an *Aedes* mosquito that is infected with a dengue virus. The mosquito becomes infected with dengue virus when it bites a person who has dengue virus in their blood. The person can either have symptoms of dengue fever or DHF, or they may have no symptoms. After about one week, the mosquito can then transmit the virus while biting a healthy person. Dengue cannot be spread directly from person to person.

Q. What are the symptoms of the disease?

A. The principal symptoms of dengue fever are high fever, severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, joint pain, muscle and bone pain, rash, and mild bleeding (e.g., nose or gums bleed, easy bruising). Generally, younger children and those with their first dengue infection have a milder illness than older children and adults.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever is characterized by a fever that lasts from 2 to 7 days, with general signs and symptoms consistent with dengue fever. When the fever declines, symptoms including persistent vomiting, severe abdominal pain, and difficulty breathing, may develop. This marks the beginning of a 24- to 48-hour period when the smallest blood vessels (capillaries) become excessively permeable ("leaky"), allowing the fluid component to escape from the blood vessels into the peritoneum (causing ascites) and pleural cavity (leading to pleural effusions). This may lead to failure of the circulatory system and shock, followed by death, if circulatory failure is not corrected. In addition,

the patient with DHF has a low platelet count and hemorrhagic manifestations, tendency to bruise easily or other types of skin hemorrhages, bleeding nose or gums, and possibly internal bleeding.

Q. What is the treatment for dengue?

A. There is no specific medication for treatment of a dengue infection. Persons who think they have dengue should use analgesics (pain relievers) with acetaminophen and avoid those containing aspirin. They should also rest, drink plenty of fluids, and consult a physician. If they feel worse (e.g., develop vomiting and severe abdominal pain) in the first 24 hours after the fever declines, they should go immediately to the hospital for evaluation.

Q. Is there an effective treatment for dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF)?

A. As with dengue fever, there is no specific medication for DHF. It can however be effectively treated by fluid replacement therapy if an early clinical diagnosis is made. DHF management frequently requires hospitalization. Physicians who suspect that a patient has DHF may want to consult the Dengue Branch at CDC, for more information.

Q. Where can outbreaks of dengue occur?

A. Outbreaks of dengue occur primarily in areas where *Ae. aegypti* (sometimes also *Ae. albopictus*) mosquitoes live. This includes most tropical urban areas of the world. Dengue viruses may be introduced into areas by travelers who become infected while visiting other areas of the tropics where dengue commonly exists.

Q. What can be done to reduce the risk of acquiring

dengue?

A. There is no vaccine for preventing dengue. The best preventive measure for residents living in areas infested with *Ae. aegypti* is to eliminate the places where the mosquito lays her eggs, primarily artificial containers that hold water.

Items that collect rainwater or to store water (for example, plastic containers, 55-gallon drums, buckets, or used automobile tires) should be covered or properly discarded. Pet and animal watering containers and vases with fresh flowers should be emptied and cleaned (to remove eggs) at least once a week. This will eliminate the mosquito eggs and larvae and reduce the number of mosquitoes present in these areas.

Using air conditioning or window and door screens reduces the risk of mosquitoes coming indoors. Proper application of mosquito repellents containing 20% to 30% DEET as the active ingredient on exposed

skin and clothing decreases the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes. The risk of dengue infection for international travelers appears to be small. There is increased risk if an epidemic is in progress or visitors are in housing without air conditioning or screened windows and doors.

Q. How can we prevent epidemics of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF)?

A. The emphasis for dengue prevention is on sustainable, community-based, integrated mosquito control, with limited

reliance on insecticides (chemical larvicides, and adulticides). Preventing epidemic disease requires a coordinated community effort to increase awareness about dengue fever/DHF, how to recognize it, and how to control the mosquito that transmits it. Residents are responsible for keeping their yards and patios free of standing water where mosquitoes can be produced.

Aedes aegypti is the major vector of dengue viruses worldwide.



Aedes aegypti

L. Munstermann, Yale University

**Farewell, continued from page 2**

Pedro Pierluisi; elected government officials like Senators Lucy Arce and Hernández Mayoral, Mayors Jorge Santini, Abel Nazario, Ramón Luis Rivera, Jr. and the late William Miranda Marín, among others; Army leadership like the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Dr. David Chu, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Robert W. Rodriguez; the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Materiel and Facilities Deputate, Ms. Patricia Walker; members of the House of Representatives from Texas, Guam and Massachusetts; Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakly, Maj. Gen. Steven Abt, Deputy Commanding General from Accessions Command; Brig. Gen. Héctor Pagán, Brig. Gen. Bradshaw, Brig. Gen. David Garza from SOUTHCOM and the Chief of Chaplains, MG Douglas Carver; as well as our leadership from IMCOM such as Mr. Davis Tindoll, Mr. Maurice Buchanan and various installation commanders during the Senior Commanders Conferences, and our Senior Commander, MG Gerety, among others.

As a family, we also paused to capture the true meaning of our Army values by honoring two of our members – one Soldier and one Civilian – in dignified and significant ceremonies attended by family, friends, leaders, workforce and community. We named Fort Buchanan 901 gate in honor of Spc. Frances M. Vega and the Directorate of Logistics facilities in honor of MSG (Ret) Victor Cosme.

Distance didn't matter as we pay our tribute to Soldiers and their families. We visited the Municipality of Quebradillas where we posthumously presented one of the most important decorations of the United States Army, the Silver Star Medal, to Sgt. 1st Class Pedro A.

Muñoz' family.

After overcoming the uncertainty of BRAC we celebrated the lifting of the moratorium that allowed us the construction of a new Gas Station, the new Child Development Center just inaugurated, and the Armed Forces Reserve Center, as well as the long awaited elevator at Building 390, as well as other infrastructure projects.

Imagine if time passed so fast that our Wounded Warriors went from MRPU (Medical Retention Processing Unit) to CBHCO (Community Base Health Care Organization) to CBWTU (Community Based Warriors Transition Unit) in the blink of an eye. As their organizations evolved so did their facilities with improved programs and services. Also the DOIM (Directorate of Information Management) became the NEC (Network Enterprise Center).

There have been ups and downs in this journey. As a family we stood together in the prevention of the swine flu, the H1N1 influenza, suicides and drug abuse. We got ready for hurricanes, earthquakes and even tsunamis. But our biggest lesson was CAPECO. October 23, 2009 proved that everything is possible if we work together.

During these critical times we rediscovered the values of teamwork, respect and caring. We saw Soldiers, co-workers, members of federal agencies and our surrounding community, working together, hand in hand, to bring Fort Buchanan back to where it was; thus enabling our Soldiers, their families and our workforce to come back home safe. As the Commander of this installation, I was truly humbled by the experience of going through an emergency of this magnitude without a casualty. Thanks to you, we can count our blessings every day.

There have also been special moments shared with kids and family members during each Holiday Parade

and Christmas tree lighting; when we cut the Army Birthday cake with our Soldiers; when we celebrated the "Year of the NCO", "the backbone of the American Army"; and when we strengthen the bonds with the local community supporting the Army Family and Army Community Covenants. We keep alive our Army's mission to foster good relations with our neighbors through our collaboration in community events such as San Patricio's Annual 5K "en Familia" in support of the Guaynabo Children's Hospital, with the Municipality of San Juan participating in the National Night Out and Veterans' events, and in cooperation with the Puerto Rico's Senate in the First Veterans' Congress and the First Honor Ceremony for Female Veterans, to name a few. We never left a fallen comrade behind as we pay our respects to our heroes, our departed Soldiers and first responders during Memorial Day and 9/11. We also gave thanks during Veterans' Day for the great generation of Soldiers whose sacrifices kept freedom and democracy alive.

The spirit that brought us together in bad times is the same that kept us together in good times as we celebrated Organizational Days, shared in true camaraderie with other sister services at the Fun Runs, hosted Health Fairs, Retiree Appreciations, Employees Award Ceremonies, Employees Appreciation Days, Volunteer Recognitions, and New Year Receptions, among other activities.

Thanks to the Department of Defense Schools for their outstanding support to Fort Buchanan community, especially the Antilles High School Choir, Fort Buchanan's Musical Ambassadors, under the direction of Ms. Sonia Betancourt. Also thanks to the Commissary and AAFES for their continuous outstanding support to Soldiers and military families. Their services enhance our service members' quality of life.

I would like to thank you again for investing in Fort Buchanan's future through your commitment at work. As I look back I feel honored and humbled for a challenging but most satisfying journey. I wasn't able to get to my destination and achieving goals for this installation without you.

You are the moving force for everything that happened, for every accomplishment that we celebrate and for shaping the future of Fort Buchanan as we reach the goal of becoming an Army Community of Excellence. I won't be here to celebrate with you; but deep in my heart I will be very happy, no matter where I'll be.

Fort Buchanan will always hold a special place in my heart. On behalf of my family – my wife Rebecca, my children Ervin, Emmanuel, Eric and Emily thank you for everything we learned, for your support, your hospitality, for the friendships we shared and all the blessings we received. These are the gifts that in one way or the other, we received from you since we arrived at "La Isla del Encanto". These are the gifts that my family and I will treasure the most as we depart and humbly say "Thank you". No existen palabras que puedan describir la gratitud que este Comandante siente hacia ustedes. Gracias por acompañarme durante mi jornada, por servir con orgullo, honor y dignidad y cumplir nuestro compromiso por preservar esta instalación para el disfrute de futuras generaciones de Soldados, familias, empleados y veteranos. A nombre de toda mi familia, gracias, muchas bendiciones para ustedes y sus familias.

NO ONE CAN TAKE YOUR PLACE

Suicide

If you or someone you know is considering suicide, seek help immediately!

Talk to a friend, your chain of command, or your Chaplain.

Call Your Garrison Chaplain, Ft. Buchanan

787-707-3904

1-800-342-9647
Military One Source

USACHPPM
http://usachppm.army.mil

Military Spouse - Are You Looking for a Federal Job?

By Army News Service

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (NDAA FY10) included a provision to establish a pilot program for military spouses to obtain federal employment. The Civilian Personnel Management Services recently launched the 2010 Military Spouse Intern Program and is looking for 120 military spouses to help fill these positions.

A military spouse must meet all eligibility requirements established by the hiring agency. Once an offer is made, the Department of Defense will reimburse Federal agencies for first year salary, benefits, and training costs if an eligible military spouse is appointed to a permanent position that provides training and career progression. The military spouse internship differs from other Federal internship programs. It is open to military spouses at all levels of their career progression, from those with no prior federal experience to those with a career status.

The 2010 Military Spouse Intern Program is open to all spouses of active duty service members, except:

- Spouse who is legally separated from the service member when the person begins the internship
- Spouse who is also a member of the Armed Forces on active duty
- Spouse who is a retired member of the Armed Forces

For complete details, including FAQs, please visit the Military Spouse Intern Program website: http://www.cpms.osd.mil/MilSpouse/milspouse_index.aspx

When applying for a job, state in your cover letter or application that you are a military spouse of an active duty service member who may be eligible for the Military Spouse Internship Program. Apply for a federal job today by visiting the USAJOBS website.

This new program is not the same as the noncompetitive appointment (Executive Order 13473) for certain military spouses.

Here are eight of the Military Spouses Federal Internship most frequently asked questions:

What is the Military Spouse Internship Program?

The military spouse internship program is a Department of Defense initiative designed to acquaint Federal Agencies with the skills and talents military spouses possess, by providing first year salary, benefits and training costs for eligible military spouses hired into permanent Federal positions with career advancement.

What Government positions qualify for reimbursement under this program?

Positions must be permanent, offer career advancement, and be in Professional, Analytic or Administrative occupations. They should be in occupations that are common across the Federal Government, e.g., Information Technology, Financial Management, Human Resources, or in agencies that have occupations throughout the country.

How do I apply for these jobs?

The easiest way to start looking for a permanent federal internship opening is at www.usajobs.gov. Search on the keywords "internship" or "military spouse" and you will find positions that are currently being recruited. There are two kinds of announcements on USAJOBS;

those that are open to the general public with no restrictions (except for U.S. citizenship), and those that are open to specific categories of applicants who have what is called "status" or "personal noncompetitive appointing eligibility." The following military spouses have status or noncompetitive appointment eligibility:

- Those married to a member of the armed forces serving on active duty who has orders specifying a permanent change of station (not for training). (Only spouses of service members currently on active duty are eligible for salary reimbursement under this program).
- Those married to a 100 percent disabled service member injured while on active duty.
- The unmarried widow or widower of a service member who was killed while performing active duty.
- Those who are prior federal employees with reinstatement eligibility.
- Those who are current permanent Federal employees.

Announcements allowing these categories of applicant to apply will so specify. Military spouses who do not have noncompetitive appointment eligibility may apply for any announcement that is open to the general public. You can also visit the web sites of individual agencies and search on their internship openings.

How do I identify myself as a Military Spouse during the application process?

You should clearly state on your resume and/or cover letter that you are a military spouse. Additionally, when using USAJOBS to apply for vacancies, you will be asked to identify your type of eligibility. This type of eligibility may be military spouse, reinstatement eligible, transfer eligible or other type of non-competitive appointment eligibility.

How do I know if I'm eligible for this program? Are there Military Spouses who are ineligible?

Any spouse can apply for and be considered for a Federal job. However, for an agency to get reimbursed for the first year's salary, benefits and training costs under this pilot, the spouse must be married to an active duty member of the Armed Forces. The following military spouse candidates can apply and be selected for a Federal position but the hiring agency would not be able to participate in the reimbursement aspect of this program:

- Spouses who are legally separated from a member of the Armed Forces under court order or statute of any State, the District of Columbia, or possession of the United States when the person begins the internship,
- Spouses who are also members of the Armed Forces on active duty, or
- Spouses who are retired members of the Armed Forces.

How does the hiring process work?

After the announcement you have applied for closes, a selection list will be generated and issued to the hiring manager. Following the respective hiring agency's procedures, a selection will be made. Should you be the selectee, you will be notified and asked to provide documentation that supports your eligibility. If you are not selected, you will also be notified.

What happens if my spouse is deployed to a new location during the first year of this program? Can I transfer within the Federal government or be eligible for telework? The intent of the internship is to allow military spouses the flexibility to transfer geographically with their military members. Options may include telework. Hiring agencies are being asked to consider the military spouse's commitment to relocate with their service member when designing the training and career progression plan. Internships into which spouses are placed should be geographically widespread within the agency, or in positions which are common throughout the Federal government, so as to afford the spouse the opportunity to work elsewhere in the Federal Government.

If I am appointed to an internship, will I have the opportunity to provide feedback to the Department of Defense about my experience?

The Department of Defense is required to report to Congress on the success of the Pilot program and make a recommendation as to its continuation. To this end, the Department will be contacting the hiring agency and the hired spouse to gather information from both about the success of the program.





U.S. ARMY RESERVE
1st MSC
FORT BUCHANAN, PUERTO RICO

PRIMEROS

A PROUD AND READY FORCE



1st MSC completes Equal Opportunity leader's course

Nestor Ramos

1st Mission Support Command Equal Opportunity program manager

1st MSC Safety and Logistics Directorates and Ft. Buchanan Safety Office, join forces to preserve Soldiers lives. By Carlos Alvarado 1st MSC SOH Specialist

1st Mission Support Command (MSC) Safety (Mr. Carlos Alvarado and Mr. Albert Velez) and Logistics (CW3 Roger Wright) Directorate's along with Fort Buchanan Safety Office's Army Traffic Safety Training Program (Mr. Luis Salazar) joined forces to declare war on the enemies that take our Soldiers, and DA Civilians lives on the highway.

Speed, distractions, fatigue, aggressive driving and safety violations in contradiction of Army Regulations are common factors that keep coming up in needless accidents involving Motor Vehicle operations.

The "War of the Highway Task Force" campaign consists on conducting training, promoting and enforcing traffic safety standards among Soldiers and

DA Civilians who operate POV, GSA and Tactical Vehicles. In the past, the only requirement needed to operate GSA and tactical vehicles was a valid state driver's license but the 1st MSC has put together a varied approach to insure Army safety standards are addressed.

The 1st MSC incorporated into their licensing procedures mandatory driver safety training for operating GSA vehicles (Sedan, Mini Vans, etc). The Army Accident Avoidance online course was also added and both trainings make up a solid line of defense that targets the main factors that cause accidents and provides pro active steps to mitigate these hazards. Topics like local hazards, risk management, defensive driving and vehicle maintenance procedures are presented and studied. Additional approaches implemented are promoting traffic safety by disseminating posters, banners, and educational handouts through the different Reserve Centers. Also traffic safety briefings during the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program events are being given and educational emails (Weekly Safety

Tips) to all 1st MSC members round out the awareness phase of this campaign. The most popular event conducted by the Traffic Safety Task Force is executing unannounced tactical convoy inspections during field training exercises. The main objectives of these checks are to insure that units are following proper convoy procedures, that vehicle operator training and licensing is up to date and that vehicle dispatches and maintenance procedures are being followed to Army standards before releasing the vehicles. As units follow proper safety procedures then drivers and vehicles can use the highways within approved Army parameters.

In conjunction with these efforts, the involvement of Commanders and leaders at all levels is crucial to achieve total victory in this war. Leaders must be totally engaged and committed to preserve Soldiers lives and Army property by actively setting and strictly enforcing Army safety standards.

Incorporating Composite Risk Management into the different phases of operations is the only way to win this war. A safe Army is a victorious strong Army.



On 21-23 May and 25-27 June 2010 at the San Juan Condado Plaza Hotel, the 1st MSC Commands Chaplain Office sponsored a Strong Bonds Family event in support of deployed Family members, Soldiers and their Families.

The Strong Bonds program assists Soldiers and Families alike to cope with deployment and post deployment issues thus helping them to strengthen their relationships.

Some of the Family members comments were; "Every topic was discussed professionally, great team work!"

"Great opportunity to learn and enjoy as a Family.



On 26 June 2010 family members of deployed Soldiers of the 512th Movement Control Team DET, 166th RSG, 210 RSG, 432nd TC Co and the 35th Signal Bravo Company gathered at the "Gran Melia Resort" in Rio Grande, PR for a phase 3 & 4 Yellow Ribbon celebration. The Yellow Ribbon program provides a great opportunity for family members to get help and answers to problems that occur at home while their loved ones are deployed. Also it provides professional counseling for other situations that occur that might need moral support or just a shoulder to cry on. During the morning, Brigadier General Fernando Fernandez, Commanding General 1st Mission Support Command showed up and addressed the crowd to encourage them to use all of the programs available and to not hesitate in contacting him for any needs or problems that they might be going thru.



From left to right: Sgt. Luis Ferreria, 471st senior mechanic, Col., Osvaldo Jimenez, 210th RSG Commander, 1st Lt. Hector Monjica, 471st Company Commander, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Roger Wright, 1st MSC Maintenance Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mariano Nuñez, 448th BN Maintenance Officer and Sgt. 1st Class Israel Rivera, 471st Motor Sergeant.

On June 24, 2010 the Combined Logistics Excellence Award ceremony was held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, Virginia to recognize those organizations that have attained logistics excellence.

Among those units that won at this prestigious event, was the 471st Engineer Company, which received the Maintenance Excellence Army Reserve Award in the Command, Modified Table of Organization and Equipment Medium category. Congratulations on such an exceptional achievement.

PRimeros in the News

Stories and Photos by: Sgt, 1st Class Alfonso Flores, PAO, 1st MSC

Internet unites family for championship

Staff Sgt. Joel Cruz from the 166th Regional Support Group is currently mobilized and is stationed in Iraq. His daughter, Jomarly Cruz, was selected to participate for the Guaynabo Volleyball Academy team in the Jr. National Volleyball Championships in Orlando, Fla.

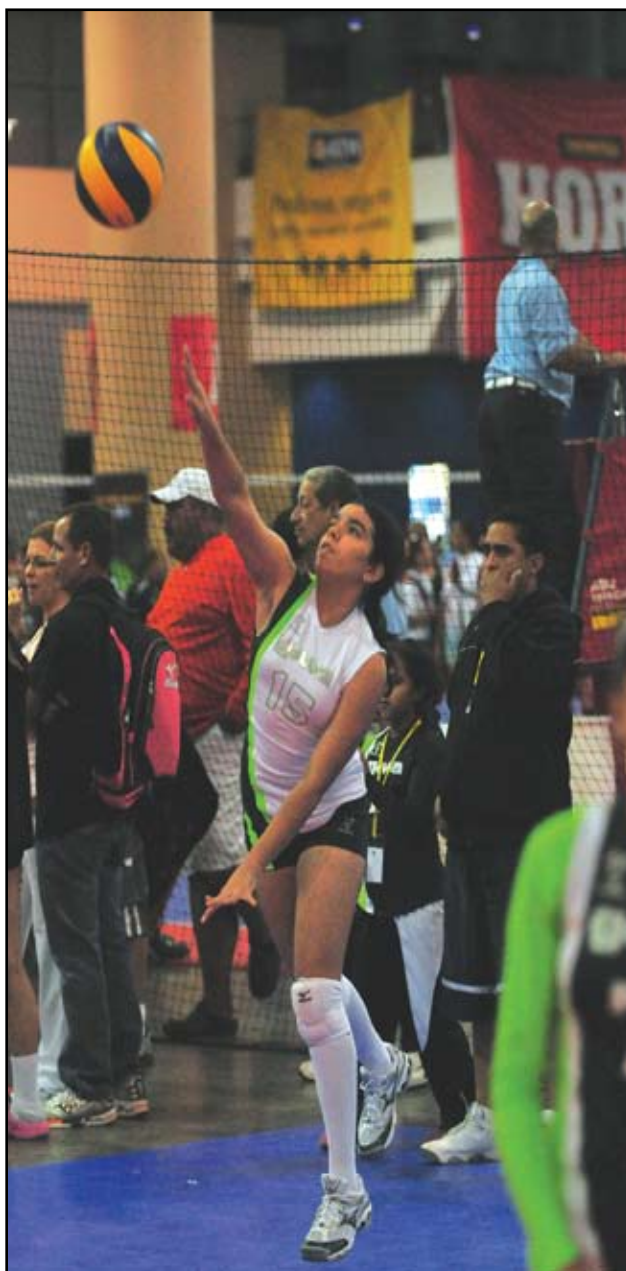
Cruz was a little heart broken because he was going to miss his daughter's volleyball games. Thanks to a little creativity by Brenda Galarza (Jomarlys' aunt) and the internet, the proud papa was able to follow all of his daughter matches and watch as her team took the "gold" to become the National Volleyball Champions!

It doesn't get any better than that, watching your daughter via internet winning a championship while thousands of miles away fighting for democracy and liberty! We would like to thank Ivelisse Garcia, Family Programs Assistant for providing us with this great story and we congratulate Jomary and her mom, Wilmary Cruz for supporting Cruz while he is far away.

R i g h t :
Staff Sgt.
Joel Cruz
as he
watches
his daughter
play.



Far right:
Jomarly
Cruz as
she "kills
the ball"
for a point.



Courtesy Photos

On 26 June 2010, Soldiers of the 273rd Transportation Detachment were honored in a Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Award Ceremony held at the Leopoldo Figueroa Hall in the Capitol building in San Juan, PR. Various VIP's, military and civilians, family members and friends were present to honor these brave Soldiers who spent one year in Afghanistan. This group from the 273rd was composed of twenty Soldiers in which four have been deployed in more than one occasion. Welcome back home to all of our Warrior Citizens.



Courtesy Photos

"The Army is the best thing that ever happend to me."

On 21 June 2010, a very proud Staff Sgt. Anaselly Ramos raised her right hand to re-enlist and add a few more to years her 12 years of outstanding service in the Army Reserve.

Lt. Col. Hector Agosto read the Oath of enlistment in front of a crowd of Ramos' peers, coworkers and friends.

"The Army is the best thing that ever happened to me. I'm proud to serve my unit and my country. I have been in the military since I was 19 and I don't regret anything. I signed for couple of years to continue serving in the greatest Army in world. Thanks to all who had faith and have given me the opportunity to serve."



Courtesy Photos

in the photo from left to right: Mrs. Carmen Montes, Mrs. Hilda Montes, Mr. Luis Santiago, Mrs. Laura Montes, Mr. Victor Santiago, Mrs. Marlene Santiago and Mr. Nelson Alicea

Please take a good look of this exceptional family and if you ever have the privilege to meet with any of them, thank and congratulate them for the service they provide to their country. What do they do? First I will tell you who they are; Mrs. Carmen Montes is the mother of SGT Jimmy Rodriguez Montes. Mrs. Hilda Montes and Mr. Luis Santiago are the proud parents of SGM Hector Santiago Montes and SGT Alex Santiago Montes. Mrs. Laura Montes and Mr. Victor Santiago are the parents of SGT Victor Santiago Montes and Malene Santiago Montes (in the photo next to her husband Mr. Nelson Alicea). What makes this group so special? All of the ladies are sisters and all of their sons are Soldiers with the 210 RSG and all of the Soldiers are deployed and serving in Ballad, Iraq at this moment! God bless this beautiful family and keep all of our soldiers out of harms way.



U.S. ARMY RESERVE
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PRIMEROS



With the initiative of Family Readiness Group Leader, Mrs. Darelly Rivera, and the unconditional support of Family Programs Assistant, Mrs. Ivelisse Garcia, kids and family members got involved in creating their own banners for the Unit's Homecoming event.

It was great to see the emotions and the creativity of the Families as they got involved preparing their special banners. These banners are going to be installed around the Headquarter facilities letting all Families and friends know that the Unit's are coming back home. It wasn't all work and no play as the FRG had provided a Jump house, cotton candy and a popcorn machine for the enjoyment of all.

The kids were jumping, running and enjoying everything that was prepared for them 'like if they were at home'. It was a very special Family Event where the FRG Leaders and Volunteers deserve a great applause and recognition for their never ending support.



On 21 June 2010, at Ramos Hall, Fort Buchanan a Driver Improvement Training class was given in an effort to get all Soldiers properly trained so they can be allowed to drive a GSA vehicle. This course is now USARC mandated for all military and civilian personnel and prior registration is required. The course is geared towards making everyone a more alert and better driver by exposing them to different scenarios and it also brushes everyone's preventive maintenance skills. Don't get caught without this training when you are driving your GSA because your vehicle will be confiscated and you will probably have a long walk.

1st MSC Safety and Logistics Directorates and Ft. Buchanan Safety Office, join forces

By Carlos Alvarado

1st Mission Support Command SOH Specialist

1st MSC Safety and Logistics Directorates and Ft. Buchanan Safety Office, join forces to preserve Soldiers lives. By Carlos Alvarado 1st MSC SOH Specialist

1st Mission Support Command (MSC) Safety (Mr. Carlos Alvarado and Mr. Albert Velez) and Logistics (CW3 Roger Wright) Directorate's along with Fort Buchanan Safety Office's Army Traffic Safety Training Program (Mr. Luis Salazar) joined forces to declare war on the enemies that take our Soldiers, and DA Civilians lives on the highway. Speed, distractions, fatigue, aggressive driving and safety violations in contradiction of Army Regulations are common factors that keep coming up in needless accidents involving Motor Vehicle operations.

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Ribbon Reintegration Program events are being given and educational emails (Weekly Safety Tips) to all 1st MSC members round out the awareness phase of this campaign.

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On 26 June 2010 the 389th Finance detachment celebrated their Family Day activity in Fort Buchanan, PR. It was a fun day for all and the Children Youth Services provided care for the little ones while Soldiers and family members took advantage of several conferences offered during the activity. Some of the topics where legal, budget management, financial counseling, family programs overview and how to organize a Family Readiness Group. There was plenty of food and games to include a colorful jump house for the children who enjoyed every moment. This great event was put together by 2LT Gill V. Cacho, 389th Company Comander, SFC Salvador Moran and his wife, Viviana Hernandez and MRS. Ivelisse Garcia, Family Program Assistant. Also we would like to congratulate Staff Sgt. Salvador Moran who was promoted to Sergeant First Class.